

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 52—NO. 26

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS

MISSING IN FOG, U.S. SUBMARINE K-5 MAY BE LOST OFF COAST OF CAROLINA

ADMINISTRATION IN PANIC WHEN DEFEAT LOOMS UP FOR BOND ISSUES

Advisory Board Considers Plan to Shift Proposed Bonded Debts Into Requisitions of Their Respective Departments, Lest Defeat Attends Issues At Polls.

School, Street and Sewer Projects Are Those Which Advisers Fear Are Most Likely To Be Defeated—Tax Rate of 25 Mills Now Threatens.

Fearful that, because of the great increase in the taxes of small property owners, at least some of the proposed bond issues will be defeated by the people, members of the advisory board met in the mayor's office at 2 o'clock today and discussed the advisability of asking for many improvements by direct taxation instead of bond issue. It is feared that the people will turn down at least the proposals to bond for \$500,000 for new schools and \$500,000 for new pavements most of which it is proposed to spend for Warrenite roadway and \$500,000 for new sewers. This will mean a tax rate of at least 25 mills.

All these things the administration deems necessary, but from the temper displayed by the throng of angry homeowners who have flooded the offices of the assessors in the city hall during the past three days the Republican politicians are beginning to believe that the people in their wrath will turn down all the bond issues.

Tonight the committee will report to the common council asking that body to issue bonds for such improvements as they desire. The original plan proposed it was the intention to ask for \$500,000 bonds for new school houses and abolish entirely the half mill tax which was granted for the purpose last year. For many years before a one mill tax always has been granted for this purpose. Last year the Republicans attempted to abolish it entirely but the board of apportionment cut the tax to one-half mill.

The advisory committee also asked for \$500,000 for new sewers. This bond issue of \$500,000 would provide for a sewage disposal plant at cost \$200,000.

In the \$500,000 for pavements it is understood that about \$100,000 was to be used for cement or permanent pavement, about \$200,000 for macadam and the remainder in the neighborhood of \$200,000 for Warrenite streets. There are petitions being circulated by the common council at present for more than 18 miles of Warrenite pavement. These petitions are circulated by the common council at present for more than 18 miles of Warrenite pavement. These petitions are circulated by the common council at present for more than 18 miles of Warrenite pavement.

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BURR & KNAPP VICTIMS JOIN STATE IN SUIT TO RECOVER FROM BOND CO.

Depositors in the defunct banking firm of Burr & Knapp joined with the State of Connecticut in a suit today against the National Surety Co. of New York to recover on a bond of \$10,000 given by the defendant to secure the state against loss from Burr & Knapp. After the firm went into bankruptcy an effort was made to collect this bond but the Surety Co. has refused to pay it. Referee in Bankruptcy John W. Banks has repeatedly declared there is no excuse for the company not making good on the bond.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER OUT OF BANKS AS BIG LEVEE GIVES WAY UNDER FLOOD

Hickman, Ky., Jan. 31.—The West Hickman levee gave way today and the Mississippi river is now flooding a large area in the manufacturing district.

The water is slowly backing up into the business section. About 800 people have so far been rendered homeless.

Indianapolis, Jan. 31.—Indiana rivers and streams were bank full and many overflowing today as a result of the heavy rains which have prevailed throughout the state since last Thursday. Hundreds of families have been driven from their homes, but up to this time no loss of life has been reported here.

MRS. MOHR TEARS AS DOCTOR'S RELATIVES GO ON STAND IN HER BEHALF

Providence, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, on trial with two negroes for the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, wept in court today as the doctor's sister and brother testified on the witness stand in her behalf. Both relatives swore that Mrs. Mohr had spoken to them about attempting a reconciliation with the doctor.

Eugene J. Sullivan, Mrs. Mohr's brother-in-law, who received a letter from Dr. Mohr in 1909, in which the physician admitted the validity of their marriage, was called as a witness for the defense today. He identified the letter which was introduced at the trial on Saturday.

Sullivan said he went with Mrs. Mohr to her mother's home at Taunton, Mass., about the time it was written and that "she had a discolored eye."

"Afterwards, I met Dr. Mohr," the witness testified, "and asked him what the trouble was between Elizabeth and himself. The doctor said Mrs. Mohr had been accusing him of going around with other women and that he was sick and tired of it. He then jumped up and said, 'You know we were never legally married.' I said, 'What?' I was mad and after saying some things went home."

"A little later I received the letter," Mrs. Ella Hogan, of McEwansville, Pa., Dr. Mohr's sister, was called and asked if she knew Mrs. Mohr.

"Yes, and I am pleased to have her for my sister-in-law," she said. She testified that while Mrs. Mohr was at her home in McEwansville in June, 1915, she was produced. It read:

"I hear Mrs. Mohr is going down to see you. Now, you can do as you like about the matter but she is no good and never will be. I don't want to go into details but you are doing wrong to have her come. Better inform her she is not welcome. The children she claims are not my own."

A letter the witness received from Dr. Mohr shortly before Mrs. Mohr arrived at McEwansville in June, 1915, was produced. It read:

"I hear Mrs. Mohr is going down to see you. Now, you can do as you like about the matter but she is no good and never will be. I don't want to go into details but you are doing wrong to have her come. Better inform her she is not welcome. The children she claims are not my own."

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WAT, COUNSEL OF VAN SICKLE ON GARY PLAN

Expert Who Investigated Bridgeport Schools, Suggests Watching Trial.

TELLS ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Desirable in Crowded Places, But Must Be Adapted, Says Authority.

Because of the wide interest that has been aroused here, as everywhere throughout the United States, in the so-called Gary plan for schools, Supt. J. H. Van Sickle of Springfield, Mass., the man who investigated the Bridgeport school system and made a report on it several years ago, has compiled the arguments for and against the plan.

Bridgeport is now seriously studying the plan and it is being used, partly, in some of the crowded districts here. Supt. Van Sickle says: "When a scheme is proposed by which existing school buildings may accommodate two sets of pupils, it is no wonder that wide interest is aroused."

"Any plan that will lessen the expense of housing school children makes a strong appeal to boards of estimate, school boards, and the press. School boards are not willing, however, to be hurried into adopting, for exclusive use in a situation quite different from that in which it originated, a plan so radically different from the customary one without carefully testing its applicability."

"The Gary plan is advocated largely, but not exclusively, on the ground of economy. It is based upon the claim that by means of a longer school day it affords to the children more opportunities for work, study, and play; that it distributes the burden of teaching more evenly over the entire teaching staff; and that it affords pre-vocational training to all children in all of the grades instead of confining such work to a small group of children in the seventh and eighth grades."

"The Gary system has commended itself to students of education for various reasons. It promises:

1.—An enriched school life for every pupil.

2.—A co-ordination of all existing child-welfare agencies and a full utilization of all facilities in present public and private recreational and educational institutions.

3.—A solution of the part-time problem.

4.—A double school plan by which each school seat serves two children.

5.—A wider use of the school plant.

6.—An increase in this school day through a co-ordination of work, study and play activities.

7.—A program that would invest the child's non-school time to greater profit and pleasure.

8.—A socialized education in harmony with progressive thought of the day.

"On the other hand, those who oppose the immediate and wholesale adoption of the duplicate plan for the elimination of part-time express doubt as to certain novel features of school administration which it embodies, such as departmental teaching for all children from the first year through the eighth, instruction of groups of children by pupils instead of teachers, the grouping together of younger and older pupils for auditorium period for

(Continued on page 2.)

BRITISH LOSSES IN PAST MONTH NEARLY 21,000

Report For January Shows That More Than 1,000 Officers Lost Lives.

London, Jan. 31.—British casualties published during the month of January totaled 1,079 officers and 19,624 men.

ITALY TO HOLD ALBANIA.

Berlin, Jan. 31.—Italy has decided to continue the campaign in Albania, according to Vienna dispatch today by the Overseas News Agency and is said to have landed an additional infantry division and several batteries of heavy artillery at Avlona.

"It will not give up Albania," the news agency says. "She considers an effective defense of the southern part of the country as a military and political necessity. Other reports stated Italy lacking sufficient troops of her own, has asked for help from England and France."

GERMAN ATTACK FAILS.

Paris, Jan. 31.—German forces last night delivered two attacks with hand grenades near Hill No. 140, both of which resulted in failure, according to the French official announcement given out this afternoon.

AERO-TRAINING STATION LIKELY FOR BRIDGEPORT

Three Licensed Aviators and 14 Volunteers At Militia's Disposal.

HYDROAEROPLANE FLEET EXPECTED

Lieutenant Merritt Honored By National Militiamen's Association.

As a result of the great preparedness movement that is being given impetus by President Wilson, Bridgeport soon may have an aviation school for Connecticut militiamen.

Three licensed aviators have offered their services to officers at the local state armory and 14 men have applied and expressed willingness to learn the aviation game. Because of lack of funds their services could not be taken advantage of during the last few months, but now, with the preparedness spirit in the air, there is no doubt, according to militia officers that aerial training will be instituted in Bridgeport.

It is already assured that several hydroaeroplanes will be furnished Bridgeport militiamen by the government in line with the policy of general entrenchment. With capital that is expected to be volunteered before long, this city is likely to have a complete training school for airmen.

Not long ago, Emerson MacMillan, a wealthy man, offered to give 10 per cent. in addition to any fund raised for the establishment of aviation schools for the various state militias. The offer expires today. No advantage was taken of it in Bridgeport, although a Danbury man offered to finance such a school, and the opportunity will be lost. Commander Eben Hill didn't approve of it.

Discussion of the offer was held several months ago, but now, with preparedness the watchword, it is certain, according to observers, that the offer will be accepted. The government will encourage financially all such aspirations. As a result, the three licensed aviators in Bridgeport who have offered their services and the applicants will probably form the nucleus for a new department.

Discussion of this among other things, was held at the annual convention of the Naval Militia Association of the United States and the conference of militia officers with the Navy Department officials. The convention was held Friday and Saturday at the Waldorf hotel, Washington, and a banquet followed, Saturday evening.

Connecticut and Bridgeport were honored at the convention. Lieut. Albert J. Merritt of the Connecticut National Guard was elected secretary of the association. Commander Eben Hill, Jr., of the same body was made

(Continued on page 2.)

WILSON BOOM FOR GOVERNOR

ON DEATH BED

While G.O.P. Leaders Feast, Mayor's Support Dies of Mal-Nutrition.

Mayor Clifford B. Wilson's boom for the Republican nomination for governor is dying from frost-bite.

Wilson was elected to his present trip. While no authoritative hint was given, it was reported that his address will be a straight-from-the-shoulder talk on "America First."

The trip from Cleveland was made without incident. The President alighted from his car for a few minutes' exercise at the LaSalle street station in Chicago. He was accompanied by several guards as he paced the station platform.

President Wilson has not changed his stand on the question of the right of Americans to travel on merchant ships of belligerent nations. The statement that the President now favored the passage of a bill barring American citizens from such vessels which was published today was denied by Secretary Tumulty.

"The President stands today where he always stood on that question," said Mr. Tumulty.

Litchfield county had a flock of boosters for Comptroller Morris C. Webster and W. Scott Eames was very busy talking in behalf of Denis A. Sullivan for Governor.

The banquet was a nice party. Congressman William B. McKinley, cousin of the martyred president, was the chief speaker.

Undersea Boat Goes Astray From Convoy in Thick Weather—Missing Since Early Sunday Morning While Destroyers and Coast Guard Cutters Cruise in Vain For Trace of Her—Wireless, Serviceable Only in 50 Mile Radius, Fails To Answer Repeated Calls—New London Man Among Crew of Submersible.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels today ordered the destroyers Steer and Perkins, en route from Pensacola to Charleston, to search for the submarine K-5, reported missing since 1 o'clock Sunday morning.

Navy department officials had received no word of the missing undersea boat up to noon today. The commander of the tender Tallahassee, which was accompanying the K-5 and three other submarines from New York to Key West had previously reported, through the Charleston Navy Yard, that the K-5 had become lost in a fog.

In addition to the Steer and Perkins, the destroyers Worden and Charleston, and the coastguard cutters Seminole and Yamacraw are cruising in search of the K-5.

A brief despatch from Commander Bryan of the Charleston navy yard said the submarines K-1, K-2 and K-6 were anchored off Cape Romano last night 40 miles north of Charleston, and that no further word from the missing vessel had been received by him early today.

ADRIFT THROUGH NIGHT IN SMALL BOAT, ARE SAVED

Seven of Crew of American Liner in Collision Brought To Port.

Liverpool, Jan. 31.—The seven missing seamen from the American liner steamship Philadelphia were landed today by a trawler at Milford Haven, Wales. After the Philadelphia's collision on Saturday with the British sailing ship Ben Lee off the coast of Wales the seamen put off in a lifeboat to rescue the Ben Lee's crew. They became lost in the darkness and were adrift all night, being finally picked up by a passing steamship.

The Philadelphia is now in the Mersey undergoing repairs. The accident occurred at 10 o'clock on Saturday night.

The impact of a heavy blow was felt, followed by a tearing noise. Officers on watch then saw a full rigged ship alongside with yardarms cranked away.

The yardarms of the ship broke several of the Philadelphia's lifeboats from their davits and demolished part of the main bridge. Most of the Philadelphia's passengers, of whom there were 97 in the first cabin and 94 in the second cabin and steerage were below at the time. They were saved by the lifeboats and there was no sign of panic. As a precaution lifeboats were distributed.

The yards of the ship broke several of the Philadelphia's lifeboats from their davits and demolished part of the main bridge. Most of the Philadelphia's passengers, of whom there were 97 in the first cabin and 94 in the second cabin and steerage were below at the time. They were saved by the lifeboats and there was no sign of panic. As a precaution lifeboats were distributed.

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APPEAL DENIED, LAMAR MUST GO TO U. S. PRISON

Washington, Jan. 31.—David Lamar, convicted in the New York Federal courts on charges of impersonating an officer of the United States with intent to defraud, lost his appeal in the supreme court today. The New York court is free to enforce penitentiary sentence.

TENNYSON'S GRANDSON KILLED

London, Jan. 31.—The Tennyson family received news of the death of Naval Lieut. Harold C. Tennyson, a grandson of the late poet laureate.

THE WEATHER

Cloudy tonight and Tuesday, probably rain. Somewhat colder Tuesday; increasing southwest winds.

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BRANDEIS' NAME IS REFERRED TO SUB-COMMITTEE

Washington, Jan. 31.—The nomination of Louis D. Brandeis, of Boston, for the supreme court bench, was referred for investigation by the Senate judiciary committee today, to a sub-committee consisting of Senators Chittenden, Walsh, Fletcher (Democrat) and Cummins and Clark (Republicans).

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